



California Environmental
Protection Agency

*State Water Resources
Control Board*

SEP 24 2003



TO: Applicants for Proposition 13 and 50 CALFED Watershed funds

SUBJECT: PROPOSITION 13 AND 50 CALFED WATERSHED FUNDS

As Executive Directors of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the California Bay-Delta Authority, we want to congratulate you on being invited back to compete for CALFED Watershed Program Proposition 13 or 50 grant funds. As you know, we had a tremendous response to the SWRCB's March 19, 2003, Request for Concept Proposals. We received requests for more than seven times the funding available. We feel the selected concepts can lead to excellent uses of the bond funds to accomplish both specific program and multi-program goals. Therefore, our selection process will be based on those that do an outstanding job of meeting our criteria. Our objective is to have a very competitive pool of applicants for the funds available.

We are sending you this letter for your use in crafting your full proposal so you will know what we will be looking for in the most competitive project proposals. We want to be as specific as possible so you are able to address these items in your proposal. As you know, these bond funds have some very specific requirements that must be met – and we will be looking for clear descriptions of how the proposals meet these requirements. Please make sure you review all fund source requirements in the August 2003 Request for Full Proposals as you prepare your full proposal.

We will particularly be looking at how each proposal contributes to achieving the CALFED program goals of ecosystem restoration, water supply reliability and water quality improvement. In moving closer to these goals, all projects must clearly demonstrate that they meet Watershed program goals and utilize CALFED Watershed Program Plan and Principals (available for review at www.baydeltawatershed.org). They must show substantive partnerships among diverse groups and distinctly recognize the ongoing work of the others in the watershed, including regulatory agencies such as the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). We will be looking for consistency of each project's water quality elements with the priorities and constituents identified in the RWQCBs' Basin Plans and Watershed Management Initiative Chapters (please see August 2003, Request for Full Proposal, page 3 for website references). Solid science and clear performance measures for all proposals must be well described to ensure that the methods to implement projects and monitor them will provide the public with reassurance that the bond funds were well spent. Project budget and specific cost items must be well described, compared, and fully justified.

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Finally, we will be looking for how well the proposal integrates and addresses multiple CALFED program objectives, and those of other agencies, particularly the RWQCBs. As stewards of this bond money, we want to target this money to the best projects to meet the overall needs, not those of just a single program or agency. Well thought out integration, addressing more than one high priority program objective, will be the key to the most competitive proposals.

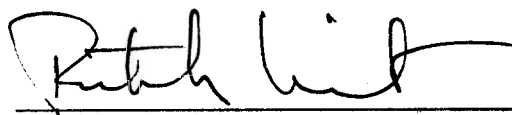
Many of you have already met with your CALFED and RWQCB contacts for advice on the best way to match your proposal to the needs. If you haven't yet met with both contacts, we encourage you to do so at your earliest opportunity. Contact names and information are included in the Request for Full Proposals, as are the descriptions of each fund source's requirements, CALFED goals, and project selection criteria.

We look forward to seeing your proposal by October 15, 2003, and to moving forward with selection and contract approval for those who are most competitive.

Sincerely,



Celeste Cantú, Executive Director
State Water Resources Control Board



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